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THANOS
INFINITY ABYSS
5 of 6
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> THANOS

> WARLOCK

> GAMORA

> MOONDRAGON

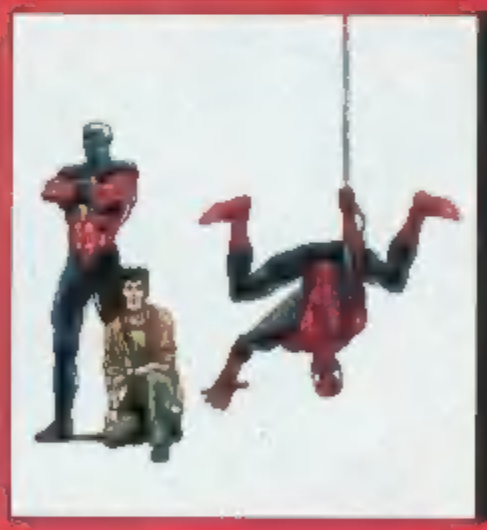
> PIP

> ATLEZ

>PREVIOUSLY IN INFINITY ABYSS...

Thanos and his one-time ward Gamora were targeted for assassination by a cadre of strange, variant duplicates of the Mad Titan. After destroying the Thanos clone called Armour, the true Thanos and Gamora now head towards a small country house floating in a vast expanse of nothingness...

Adam Warlock learned that the mysterious Atlez's days of anchoring reality are over, and that a replacement guardian must be retrieved immediately or the universe will perish. Warlock departs to find Atleza Langunn, a small child currently residing in... a small country house floating in a vast expanse of nothingness...



Meanwhile, Captain Marvel and Spider-Man have been drawn to the seemingly normal Langunn family, only to have a powerful reality wave sweep over them--leaving the family and the two heroes stranded upon... a small country house floating in a vast expanse of nothingness...

Omega, the most powerful of the Thanos doppelgangers, has been summoned to destroy the heroes and Atleza. They are unaware and quite possibly powerless to stop this creature intent on hurtling the cosmos into the Infinity Abyss...

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THE TELEPATHIC THANOS REPLICANT, X, WAS CERTAIN HIS NIHILISTS COULD MAKE SHORT WORK OF ANYONE TRAPPED WITHIN THE SPHERE OF NOTHINGNESS.

HE WAS, OF COURSE, SADLY MIS-TAKEN.

OUR PREY HIDES WITHIN YONDER BUILDING.

THEY SEEK TO EVADE MY PSYCHIC PROBING...

...WITH AN INCESSANT MENTAL CHANT ABOUT AN ITSY-BITSY SPIDER.

LOCATE AND KILL EVERYONE WITHIN THE STRUCTURE.

YES, MASTER.

ENTERING!

TARGET LOCATED.

PREPARING TO TERMINATE.

YOU WISH.

ERRORS IN JUDGMENT

CAP, YOU WERE GETTING DOWN ON ME FOR WALKING ON THE LANGUNN WALLS.

LESS TALK, WALL-CRAWLER!

MORE BATTLE!

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CAPTAIN MARVEL HAS GOOD REASON TO TAKE THESE NIHILISTS SERIOUSLY.

I TRAINED EACH OF THEM.

CAN HE AND SPIDER-MAN HANDLE THEM, THANOS?

WITH SOME EFFORT.

AND X?

AGAINST HIM, GAMORA, THEY ARE LOST.

THEN THEY'LL NEED OUR HELP.

WE WILL SEE.

SPIDEY, KEEP THE TROOPERS BUSY WHILE I TACKLE ASTRODOME.

YOU GOT IT!

A PHOTON BLAST?!

YOU MUST BE THAT ACCURSED KREE MAR-VELL'S WHELP!

IN THIS NEAR-ZERO GRAVITY--

--THESE ALIENS ARE JUST GOONS WITH GUNS TO ME.

THEY ARE RATHER PATHETIC, ARE THEY NOT...

...WHEN COMPARED AGAINST MY AWESOME PSYCHIC MIGHT!

WHAT?!

I'M FREEZING UP!!

MERELY SUCCUMBING TO MY MENTAL DOMINATION, SPIDER-MAN!

YOU AND THE CAPTAIN HAVE BECOME MY PSYCHIC THRALLS!

MARVEL, YOU WILL NOW FIRE A LETHAL PHOTONIC BLAST AT YOUR COMRADE!

CAN'T SEE ANYTHING FROM HERE!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET YOUR SHOTGUN, BRIAN.

DON'T BOTHER, FATHER, AND PLEASE...

...STEP AWAY FROM THE WINDOW.

ATLEZA?

DO NOT ATTEMPT RESISTANCE.

MY WILL IS ALL!

FIGHT IT, MARVEL!

YOU CANNOT DENY ME!

OBEY MY COMMAND!

KILL SPIDER-MAN!

DO IT NOW!

No!

THAT SOUND!

HORRIBLE.

SEE?

I TOLD YOU.

IIIEEEEEE!!

THAT'S GOT TO HURT.

BUT IS IT ENOUGH TO STOP HIM?

THE BLADE IS TIPPED WITH ENOUGH POISON...

...TO DROP A PACK OF WOLVER-TONS!

YES, THAT SHOULD DO IT.

WOLVERTONS?

ACCKK!

HEY, GUYS... HE'S TOUGHER THAN YOUR WOLVERTONS.

THE ORIGINAL'S WARD, GAMORA!

WELL, THREE CAN DIE AS EASILY AS TWO...

...WHEN ONE HAS NEARLY UNLIMITED PSI CAPABILITIES AT HIS DISPOSAL!

SEIZING UP AGAIN!

FIGHT IT!!

BUT IT'S DIFFERENT THIS TIME!

THERE IS NO DEFENSE AGAINST MY TELEKINETIC MIGHT, WOMAN!

I HAVE BYPASSED YOUR MINDS AND MENTALLY TAKEN CONTROL OF YOUR PHYSICAL BODIES.

SO THAT YOU WILL BE FULLY AWARE OF WHAT TRANSPIRES!

THE POISON HAS PROVEN INADEQUATE. IT APPEARS X'S PHYSICAL STAMINA IS NEARLY EQUAL TO MY OWN!

AN ALTERNATE COURSE OF ACTION MUST BE IMMEDIATELY PUT INTO MOTION!

AND BACK WHERE I LEFT PIP WITH THE ETERNITY/INFINITY ENTITY...

WHERE ARE YOU?

I AM SPEAKING TO YOU THROUGH AN INTER-DIMENSIONAL COMMUNICATION IMPLANT.

INSIDE MY HEAD?!

HOW'D THIS THING GET INTO MY NOGGIN?

I PLACED IT THERE SOME YEARS BACK.

HOW COME I DON'T REMEMBER THIS?

WAS I CONSCIOUS WHEN YOU DID IT?

YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW TOO MANY DETAILS.

NOW BE QUIET. I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU.

MEANWHILE, I WAS RELIVING MY OWN PAST AND TRYING TO DIGEST A MASSIVE DOSE OF STARTLING COSMIC REVELATIONS.

SO YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOU ANCHOR ALL REALITY...

...KEEP IT FROM TUMBLING INTO AN ASTRAL ABYSS?

AND THAT I HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO AID YOU IN THIS TASK?

SO WHEN I CAME TO, I DISCOVERED SHE ONLY HAD THREE OR FOUR TEETH IN HER ENTIRE FAMILY.

PRETTY SCARY, huh?

PIP!

THANOS?!

YES, FOR UNTOLD CENTURIES, EVEN BEFORE DINOSAURS WALKED YOUR EARTH, THERE HAS BEEN ONE WHOSE TASK IT IS TO SECURE ACTUALITY'S PROPER PLACE WITHIN THE COSMIC VORTEX.

AROUND ME REST MY PREDECESSORS, SELECTED FROM VARIOUS RACES THROUGHOUT THE HEAVENS.

AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, IT IS A THANKLESS AND LONELY LABOR, BUT ONE WE SHOULDER PROUDLY SO THAT ALL OTHERS MAY LIVE.

I HAVE SERVED SINCE THE DAWN OF WHAT YOU WOULD CALL THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

BUT SOON I MUST TURN MY DUTIES OVER TO ANOTHER.

YOU'RE DYING?

AS DO ALL BEINGS.

BUT SOMETHING ELSE IS AMISS.

TRAGICALLY SO.

UNTIL NOW THE SUCCESSION OF EACH REALITY ANCHOR HAS TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT.

NORMALLY, IT IS TIMED SO THAT THE REPLACEMENT HAS THE CHANCE TO REACH MATURITY BEFORE BEING CALLED TO DUTY.

UNFORTUNATELY, A RECENT CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TIME-KEEPERS, IMMORTUS, KANG, AND YOUR AVENGERS HAS CREATED AN UNDETECTED YET SERIOUS RIFT IN THE TIME FLOW.

MY RELIEF IS ONLY NOW ENTERING THE REALM OF LIFE.

SHE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PREPARE HERSELF THROUGH THE USUAL METHODS.

BUT I CAN INDIRECTLY DISPATCH A TUTORIAL, WHICH WILL READY HER.

YOUR SOUL GEM COULD CARRY THIS GIFT TO THE NEWBORN ATLEZA LANGUNN.

THEN, AFTER WHAT YOU CALL SIX MONTHS, SHE WOULD EASILY FIND HER WAY HERE AND TO HER DESTINY.

WILL YOU AID ME IN THIS ESSENTIAL ENDEAVOR?

OF COURSE.

THEN BRACE YOURSELF, ADAM WARLOCK.

FOR THIS WILL PROVE TO BE A REVELATORY EXPERIENCE AND PROBABLY...

...QUITE PAINFUL!

PAINFUL? IT WAS DEVASTATING!

THE KNOWLEDGE I NOW CARRIED WITHIN THE SOUL GEM BECAME A PART OF ME.

IT WAS FAR MORE THAN MY MIND COULD COMPRE-HEND.

SOUL-SHATTERING.

AND TWO YEARS OF MY LIFE DISAPPEARED AMIDST THE WRECKAGE.

AND WHILE I WAS LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS, DR. STRANGE NOTED MOONDRAGON WAS REGAINING HERS.

STRANGE..?

I CANNOT SPARE THE TIME FOR FURTHER USELESS BATTLE.

SO STAND DOWN OR I WILL BE FORCED TO--

BATTLE?

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER, BALDY...

PIP?!

WHO ELSE?

THIS JOURNEY HAS CERTAINLY BEEN A SERIES OF UNEXPLAINABLE EVENTS.

BUT I'VE NO TIME TO SPECULATE ON THIS LATEST MYSTERY.

MY SORCEROUS SENSES WARN THAT I MUST IMMEDIATELY CONTINUE ALONG THE MYSTICAL ENERGY TRAIL I WAS FOLLOWING.

AND IN DOING SO PERHAPS I WILL LEARN THE IDENTITY OF--

--THE TWO BEINGS THAT PASSED THIS WAY WHILE I WAS REGAINING MY WITS.

TWO YEARS LATER?

YES. WELCOME BACK TO THE PRESENT.

A GENTLER ARRIVAL THAN MY DEPARTURE.

THE LEAST I COULD DO AFTER I UNDERESTIMATED THE EFFECT SUCH COSMIC REVELATIONS WOULD HAVE ON EVEN ONE SUCH AS YOURSELF.

YOU'D BETTER FILL ME IN COM-PLETELY.

ONCE I REALIZED THAT I HAD LOST YOU TO INSANITY, I DESPERATELY SCRAMBLED FOR AN ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SALVATION.

DESPITE MY IMPORTANCE IN THIS REALITY I CAN EXERT VERY LITTLE CONTROL OVER IT.

I AM ONLY ABLE TO COMMUNICATE OPENLY WITH YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR UNIQUE NATURE.

SO AN INDIRECT METHOD HAD TO BE EMPLOYED TO GAIN MY END.

I SCOURED YOUR UNIVERSE FOR THE PROPER EXISTING ARRANGEMENT.

I FINALLY SETTLED [redacted] A SITUATION AT THE SANCTUARY OF YOUR SOMETIME-ALLY, THANOS OF TITAN.

HE HAD RECENTLY ABANDONED THIS RATHER BIZARRE PROJECT INVOLVING HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED CLONES OF HIMSELF.

BEING AWARE OF HIS DEEP-ROOTED NIHILISTIC TENDENCIES, I ADDED A SINGLE LINE TO THE DUPLICATES' DATA STREAM.

"ADAM WARLOCK IS THE KEY TO OBLIVION."

NEXT I NEARLY DEPLETED MY RESERVES OF STRENGTH BY DIRECTING A METEORITE TO A PRECISE LOCATION NEAR THE TITAN'S HIDEAWAY.

THIS KNOCKED OUT THE INSTALLATION'S DEFENSE SYSTEM.

IT WAS ALSO SUPPOSED TO ACTIVATE THE SINGLE DOPPEL-GANGER KNOWN AS ARMOUR.

BUT, TO MY HORROR, FOUR OF THE MOST POWERFUL AND DEADLY OF THE CLONES WERE ALSO BROUGHT TO LIFE INADVERTENTLY.

THAT IS WHEN MY PLAN SPUN COM-PLETELY OUT OF CONTROL.

THE FIVE REPLICANTS IMMEDIATELY BEGAN PLOTTING COSMIC OBLIVION.

SINCE THEN, THEIR EVERY MOVE HAS BROUGHT UNIVERSAL DESTRUCTION CLOSER TO REALITY.

HOW CAN THEY BE STOPPED ?

SALVATION STILL LIES WITHIN THE EARTH CHILD, ATLEZA.

YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY RETURN TO YOUR UNIVERSE AND PASS ON THE TUTORIAL THAT YET RESIDES WITHIN YOUR SOUL GEM.

AND THEN ?

BRING ATLE2A BACK HERE TO TAKE UP HER DUTIES, FOR THE TIME LEFT TO ME CAN BE COUNTED IN MINUTES.

MAKE THAT SECONDS!

WARRIOR, MY MYSTIC SENSES TELL ME THIS CREATURE'S DEATH WILL GRANT US THE TREASURE WE SEEK.

THEN IT MUST DIE!

I INSTANTLY SENSED I COULD EASILY ESCAPE THE TWO THANOS REPLICANTS.

BUT IF I DID SO...

...ATLEZ WOULD BE HELPLESS AGAINST THEM.

HE WOULDN'T LAST FIVE SECONDS.

AND SO WOULD END ALL REALITY.

SO I GIRDED MYSELF FOR BATTLE WITH THE PSEUDO-TITANS.

A FIGHT I KNEW I COULD NOT WIN.

EVERY-THING IN MY CHEST TIGHTEN-ING!

THE PAIN--!

IT IS DEATH'S SWEET EMBRACE YOU FEEL.

I CALL HER TO YOU!

TELEKINETICALLY I URGE YOUR VERY MOLECULAR STRUCTURE TO STRIVE FOR DETONATION.!

THE PRESSURE BUILDS!

CRITICAL MASS IS ACHIEVED!

AND MOST CHERISHED OBLIVION IS GRANTED TO YOU.!

I SHALL SOON, MY ENEMIES, JOIN YOU IN THIS FINAL JOURNEY!

NOW TO--

WHAT?

MY NIHILISTS!

THE HOUSE!

IT TOO FADES AWAY!

THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED!

SOMEHOW MAGE AND WARRIOR HAVE BROUGHT ON THE ULTIMATE DOOMSDAY!

OBLIVION IS UPON US!

MY PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED!

THE END IS HERE!!

GENTLE NOTHINGNESS CLAIMS ME!!

NO MORE STRIFE OR TROUBLE!

OBLIVION!!

"GROZIT! WHAT HAPPENED?!"

THE PUMPKIN-HEADED THANOS IS DEAD!

AND CHECK OUT THAT SMILE ON HIS FACE!

HOW?

NOT HOW.

WHO?

MOONDRAGON! YOU--

YES--I SURREPTITIOUSLY SEIZED PSYCHIC CONTROL AND STIMULATED X'S FANTASY CENTERS.

X'S DEEPEST DESIRE WAS TO WITNESS THE END OF ALL REALITY.

I GRANTED HIM HIS DEATH WISH IN AN ILLUSIONARY FASHION.

SO, HIS OWN MIND, IN EFFECT, IS WHAT BROUGHT ABOUT HIS DEMISE.

PRETTY COLD, LADY.

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN WHAT HE HAD IN STORE FOR YOU!

BOOM!

THE SITUATION WITHIN EARTH'S NIL SPHERE APPEARS TO BE STABLE.

UNFORTUNATELY I HAVE NO WAY OF CHECKING ON WARLOCK'S STATUS.

I MUST ASSUME THAT HE TOO WILL TRIUMPH...

...AND CONTINUE WITH MY OWN PREPARATIONS AGAINST THE OMEGA'S INEVITABLE RETURN.

THANOS'S CONFIDENCE IN MY SURVIVING FAR EXCEEDED MY OWN.

I COULD HAVE HANDLED EITHER OF THEM INDIVIDUALLY.

THE SOUL GEM'S ENERGIES EASILY COUNTERED THE MAGE'S INCANTATIONS.

AND MY OWN SPEED AND FIGHTING SKILLS WOULD'VE EVENTUALLY WON OVER WARRIOR'S SUPERIOR PHYSICAL STRENGTH.

BUT TOGETHER, THEY WERE OVERWHELMING.

BLAST HIM!!

KILL HIM!!

AND THEY WOULD HAVE...

...IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE TIMELY INTERVENTION OF A CERTAIN SORCERER SUPREME.

STRANGE!

THANOS DOPPEL-GANGERS?

INTERESTING.

WARRIOR!

TO MY SIDE!

SORRY, HE'S BUSY GETTING HIS NECK BROKEN.

I FIGURED WARRIOR COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE MORE THAN TWO OR THREE TIMES AS STRONG AS THE ORIGINAL THANOS.

I WAS WRONG.

HE WAS EASILY FOUR OR FIVE TIMES AS POWERFUL.

MY STRENGTH WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO HIS.

AND HE WAS RELENTLESS.

STAGGERED AS I WAS FROM THE DUAL ASSAULT, WARRIOR HANDILY POUNDED THROUGH MY FEEBLE DEFENSES.

FORTUNATELY, DR. STRANGE HAD LITTLE TROUBLE DISPATCHING HIS ADVERSARY.

BUT HE DIDN'T SUCCEED IN DOING SO QUICKLY ENOUGH TO AVOID...

SO FALL ALL MY ENEMIES!

TRIUMPHANT AM I!!

YOUR DEATH, ANCIENT ONE, IS ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN MYSELF AND THE END OF ALL!

YOURS WILL BE AN EMPTY VICTORY, WARRIOR.

THE CREED YOU ADHERE TO IS WITHOUT SUBSTANCE.

IN GAINING OBLIVION YOU ACHIEVE NOTHING.

IN NOTHINGNESS THERE IS ONLY AVOIDANCE, NOT TRIUMPH.

YOU SEEK TO CONFUSE ME WITH CLEVER WORDS!

YOU DIE!

I THINK NOT.

THERE IS STILL ONE WHO MIGHT STOP YOUR MADNESS.

WHO?

I WILL.

AND I WILL DEFEAT YOU, WARRIOR, FOR I NOW CALL UPON THE POWER OF THE...

SOUL GEM!

I SHOULD FEAR THIS TRINKET?

WHEN YOU NEVER DARED TO USE IT AGAINST THE ORIGINAL?

BECAUSE I FEARED TAKING THE TITAN'S DARK SPIRIT INTO MY OWN.

BUT NOW THE STAKES ARE SO GREAT I HAVE NO CHOICE!

YOU'RE BLUFFING!!

YOU WOULD BE OVERWHELMED BY THE EVIL WITHIN ME!

PERHAPS.

BUT TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE I WOULD RISK ALL!

DEPART!

I HAVE COME TOO FAR TO TURN BACK NOW!!

DON'T FORCE ME TO STEAL YOUR SOUL, WARRIOR!

DEPART!

NO!

SO BE IT!

I CLEARLY FELT THE ESSENCE OF WARRIOR RIP FROM HIS MIGHTY FRAME AND TRAVEL ALONG THE RIBBON OF ILLUMINATION, SLICING INTO AND BECOMING A PART OF MY VERY BEING.

IN AN INSTANT IT WAS OVER.

AND THE LIGHT BEHIND WARRIOR'S EYES FADED...

FOREVER.

WE WON.

BUT AT WHAT COST?

CAN YOU CONTROL THIS MONSTROSITY WHICH HAS BECOME A FACET OF YOUR SELF?

YES...

NO...

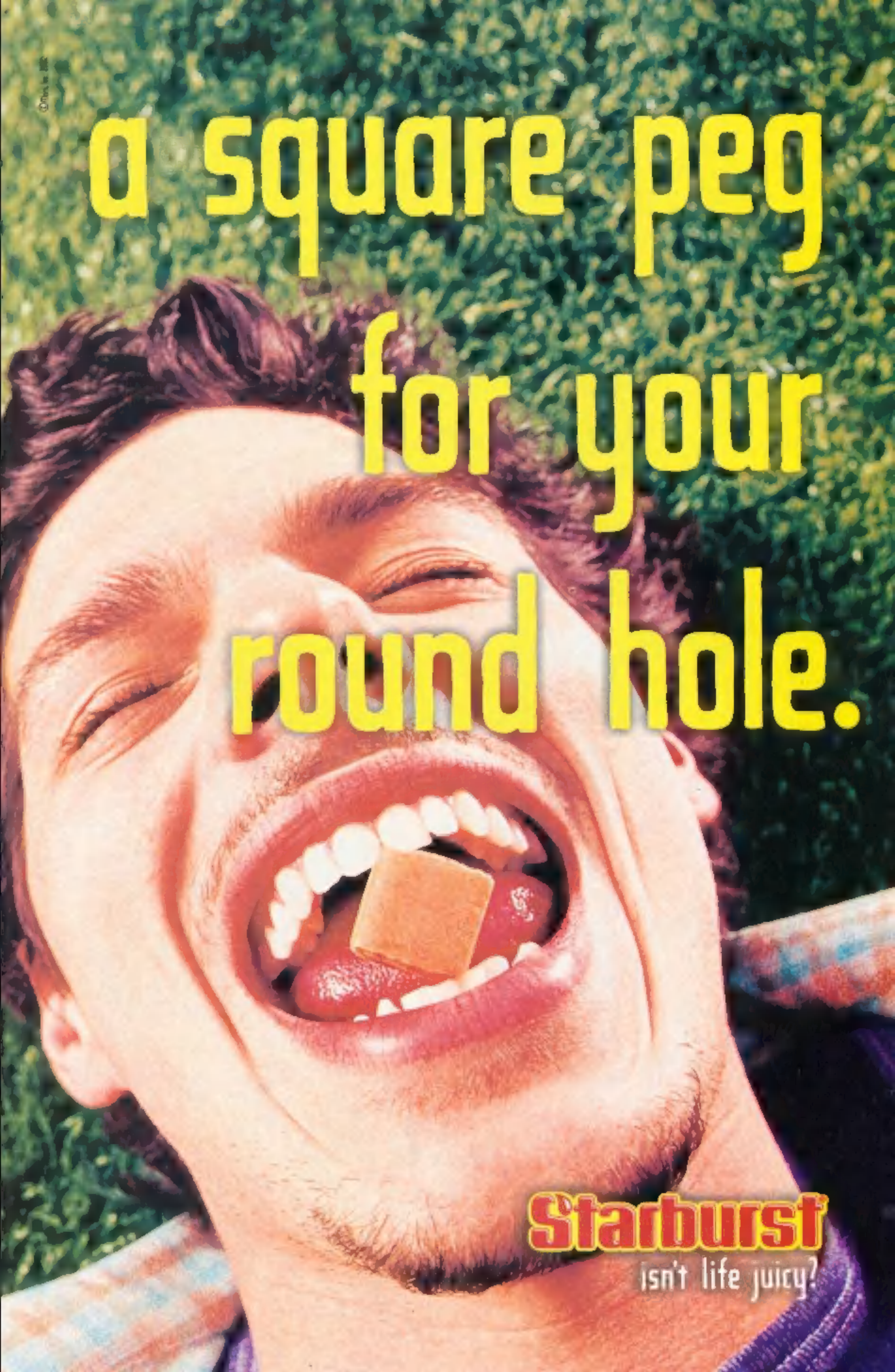
SO MANY VOICES WITHIN... SCREAMING TO BE HEARD...

BUT THIS I DO KNOW...

WARRIOR'S DREAMS OF OBLIVION...

THEY ARE NOW MY DREAMS.

TO BE CONTINUED


a square peg
for your
round hole.
Starburst
isn't life juicy?

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